

CLAIMS

1. A process for the preparation of an enzyme-containing granulate suitable for use in an animal feed, the process comprising obtaining a dry enzyme containing granulate and coating the granulate with a dispersion comprising particles of a hydrophobic substance dispersed in a suitable solvent.
2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the particles have a size have a size ranging from 10 to 1000 nm (border values included), preferably from 10 to 500 nm, more preferably from 10 to 200 nm.
3. A process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydrophobic substance has a melting point between 40 and 200 °C, preferably between 50 and 180 °C.
4. A process according to any one of claims 1 - 3, wherein the hydrophobic substance is applied at 0.1 - 20% (weight hydrophobic substance per weight of the granules), preferably at 0.2 - 10%, more preferably at 0.4 - 5%.
5. A process according to any one of claims 1 - 4, wherein the solvent is water.
6. A process according to any one of claims 1 - 5, wherein the hydrophobic substance dispersion contains 10 to 60 % (w/w) hydrophobic substance, preferably 20 to 40 % hydrophobic substance.
7. A process according to any one of claims 1 - 6, wherein the hydrophobic substance is a hydrophobic fat- or wax-like substance and/or a hydrophobic polymer.
8. A process according to claim 7, wherein the hydrophobic polymer is a polyolefin.
9. A process according to claim 8, wherein the polyolefin is polyethylene and/or polypropylene.
10. A process according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the polyolefin dispersion is a dispersion of polyolefins containing acidic groups which are stabilized by an amine.

11. A process according to claim 10, wherein the acidic groups are carboxylic groups.

12. A process according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the amine is ammonia.

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13. A process according to any one of claims 1 - 12, wherein the enzyme is a phytase, xylanase, β -glucanase, protease, phospholipase, amylase and/or glucose oxidase.

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14. An enzyme-containing granulate coated with a dispersion of particles consisting essentially of a hydrophobic substance obtainable by a process according to any one of claims 1 to 13.

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15. A process for the preparation of an animal feed, or a premix or precursor to an animal feed, said process comprising mixing a granulate according to claim 14 with one or more animal feed substances or ingredients.

16. The process according to claim 15, wherein the mixture of feed substance(s) and granulate is treated with steam, pelletised and cooled.

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17. A feed composition comprising a granulate according to claim 14.

18. A process for promoting the growth of an animal, the process comprising feeding an animal a diet that comprises either a granulate according to claim 14 or a composition according to claim 17.

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19. Use of a granulate according to claim 14 in an animal feed or as a component in an animal diet.

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20. Use of a granulate according to claim 14 to improve the pelleting stability of the enzyme.